

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-8 (Cancelled).

9. (Currently Amended) A session initiating method that is applied to a computer system equipped with a graphical user interface, the session initiating method comprising:

specifying an icon image including an original icon image ~~having image information and corresponding to a user;~~

determining whether start information necessary for initiating a session for a user is embedded in a plurality of predetermined places uniquely associated with the user within the icon image, the start information being additional information different from the icon image pixels making up the original icon image ~~image information;~~

extracting the start information from the icon image based on an algorithm that is unique to the user when it is determined that the start information is embedded in the icon image;

setting-up the session;

inputting, during the setting-up, the start information extracted;

verifying whether the start information input satisfies a condition for initiating the session; and

controlling the session based on a result of the verifying, wherein,

when it is verified that the start information satisfies the condition, the controlling includes initiating the session, and

when it is verified that the start information does not satisfy the condition, the controlling includes aborting the session.

10. (Previously Presented) The session initiating method according to claim 9, wherein the start information includes an identification and a password of the user.

11. (Currently Amended) A computer readable recording medium that stores a computer program for initiating a session that is applied to a computer system equipped with a graphical user interface, the computer program making a computer execute:

specifying an icon image including an original icon image ~~having image information and corresponding to a user;~~

determining whether start information necessary for initiating a session for a user is embedded in a plurality of predetermined places uniquely associated with the user within the icon image, the start information being additional information different from icon image pixels making up the original icon image ~~image information;~~

extracting the start information from the icon image based on an algorithm that is unique to the user when it is determined that the start information is embedded in the icon image;

setting-up the session;

inputting, during the setting up, the start information extracted;

verifying whether the start information input satisfies a condition for initiating the session; and

controlling the session based on a result of the verifying, wherein,

when it is verified that the start information satisfies the condition, the controlling includes initiating the session, and

when it is verified that the start information does not the condition, the controlling includes aborting the session.

12. (Previously Presented) The computer readable recording medium according to claim 11, wherein the start information includes an identification and a password of the user.

13. (Currently Amended) An icon-image creating apparatus that creates an icon image to initiate a session for a user, the icon-image creating apparatus comprising:

an image-information inputting unit that inputs an icon image including an original icon image ~~icon image information corresponding to a user;~~

a user-information inputting unit that inputs user information of the user, the user information not making up the original icon image;

an area detecting unit that detects within the icon image a first area based on a structure of the icon image information input, the first area for embedding additional information different from icon image pixels making up the original icon image ~~the icon image information, without making a substantial change in appearance of the icon image;~~

an area determining unit that determines a plurality of predetermined places uniquely associated with the user ~~a second area~~, based on an algorithm that is unique to the user, from the first area detected, the plurality of predetermined places ~~second area~~ for embedding the user information;

an information embedding unit that embeds the user information in the plurality of predetermined places ~~second area~~ determined; and

an icon-image outputting unit that outputs the icon image embedded with the user information.

14. (Previously Presented) The icon-image creating apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the user information includes an identification and a password of the user necessary for initiating the session.

15. (Currently Amended) A computer readable recording medium that stores a computer program for creating an icon-image to initiate a session for a user, the computer program making a computer execute:

inputting an icon image including an original icon image ~~icon-image information corresponding to a user;~~

inputting user information of the user, the user information not making up the original icon image;

detecting a first area within the icon image based on a structure of the icon image information input, the first area for embedding additional information different from icon image pixels making up the original icon image ~~the icon-image information, without making a substantial change in appearance of the icon image;~~

determining a plurality of predetermined places uniquely associated with the user ~~second area~~, based on an algorithm that is unique to the user, from the first area detected, the plurality of predetermined places ~~second area~~ for embedding the user information;

embedding the user information in the plurality of predetermined places ~~second area~~ determined; and

outputting the icon image embedded with the user information.

16. (Previously Presented) The computer readable recording medium according to claim 15, wherein the user information includes an identification and a password of the user necessary for initiating the session.